

made quite a few state agency employees nervous, but there are quite a few police officers out there, and now if we are expanding it to the entire State of Nebraska, and while we're looking at this too, I want you to note that Jim Skinner is the President of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska. Getting back to the amendment, if we are going to get into collective bargaining agreements, I want you to realize that this is a precedent setting bill, that this is the kind of bill that starts the erosion of the collective bargaining process. By allowing something like this to occur we can, at any time, any one of us, bring a bill into the Legislature to chip away at any collective bargaining agreement. I don't think it's a good precedent to set, I don't think this is a place to start. I think that collective bargaining agreements between the City of Omaha and their Police Department were done honorably, and I think that we should allow them to stay within those arenas. And if we are going to expand anywhere else, I want to make sure that I can show you that we can expand anywhere else. If we're talking about looking at support for this bill I'll tell who's not supporting this bill, city council...city councilmen talked to me, wrote me letters, said that they were strong supporters of local autonomy, that...that 717 violates the good faith collective bargaining efforts between the City of Omaha and the Omaha Police Union, that's from Subby Anzaldo, the Vice President of the Omaha City Council. Joe Friend, the President of the Omaha City Council, said that he realizes and recognizes that this has been a negotiated item between the administration of the City of Omaha and the Omaha Police Union. Therefore I think it should remain in the arena and should be negotiated at this level rather than have the state Legislature take action on this matter. Steve Exon, a council member, said that he opposes 717 because he understand the existing labor agreement between the City of Omaha and the Omaha Police Union, and the Chief of Police already has brought authority to assign personnel to districts using other than seniority as a total factor. In closing he would ask that you give serious deliberations to LB 717 and would ask that you strongly oppose it. These are the city councilmen in Omaha. They understand that this is a collectively bargained agreement, they want to keep any negotiating between and in the City of Omaha, I do also, and I want you to realize the impact of passing this kind of legislation. So, in order to broaden what I think it could eventually be broadened to, I've initiated this amendment allowing state agency directors the same kind of leeway that we will be allowing the chief of police, it's the exact same